

7.21 Diabetic retinal screening and diabetic eye disease

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By 2025 it is estimated that over 12,000 people in Barking and Dagenham will be living with diabetes and with an increasing number of people living in the borough and increasing levels of obesity this is likely to be an underestimate. People with diabetes are 10 to 20 times more likely to go blind than people without the disease, and diabetes is the leading cause of blindness among the working age population in the UK. 12% of people who are registered blind and partially sighted each year have diabetic eye disease. Up to 70% of people diagnosed with diabetes will be affected at some point by a degree of diabetic retinopathy¹.

People with diabetes are more likely to suffer from common eye diseases such as cataracts and glaucoma, as well as diabetic retinopathy which is disease of the back of the eye. Delay in diagnosis of diabetic retinal disease can result in loss of sight within two years or less². Retinopathy screening is important to detect sight threatening retinopathy whilst it can still be treated and blindness prevented.

Diabetic retinopathy screening programme

The Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme (DRSP) was introduced in 2005 to reduce the risk of sight loss amongst people with diabetes by the prompt identification and effective treatment, if necessary, of sight threatening diabetic retinopathy. It involves digital photography of the retina followed by an image assessment process.

In 2013/14, 85.2% of the Barking and Dagenham diabetic population eligible for a retinopathy screen had received a screen in the previous 15 months (Quality and Outcomes Framework 2013/14³). This screening programme has been stopped (retired) from 2014/15. Figure 7.21.1 illustrates the percentage of diabetic patients aged (17+) accessing diabetic retinopathy screening programmes (Uptake rate for those offered) by local authorities in London and National Average in 2013/14.

¹ DiabetesUK. (2013). *Statistics*. Available: http://www.diabetes.org.uk/About_us/What-we-say/Statistics/ Last accessed 14th October 2014.

² Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust. (2008). *Healthcare for London Report*. Available: <http://www.lho.org.uk/Download/Public/13791/1/Diabetes%20care%20performance%20report%20-%20Barking%20&%20Dagenham%20PCT.pdf>. Last accessed 14th October 2014.

³ Hscic, 2015 "QOF 2013/14), [Online] Available from: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB15751/qof-1314-prev-ach-exc-ccq.xlsx> [Last accessed: 19th May 2016]

Figure 7.21.1 Percentage of diabetic patients aged (17+) accessing diabetic retinopathy screening programmes by LA, including National Average in - 2013/14 – Uptake rate for those offered

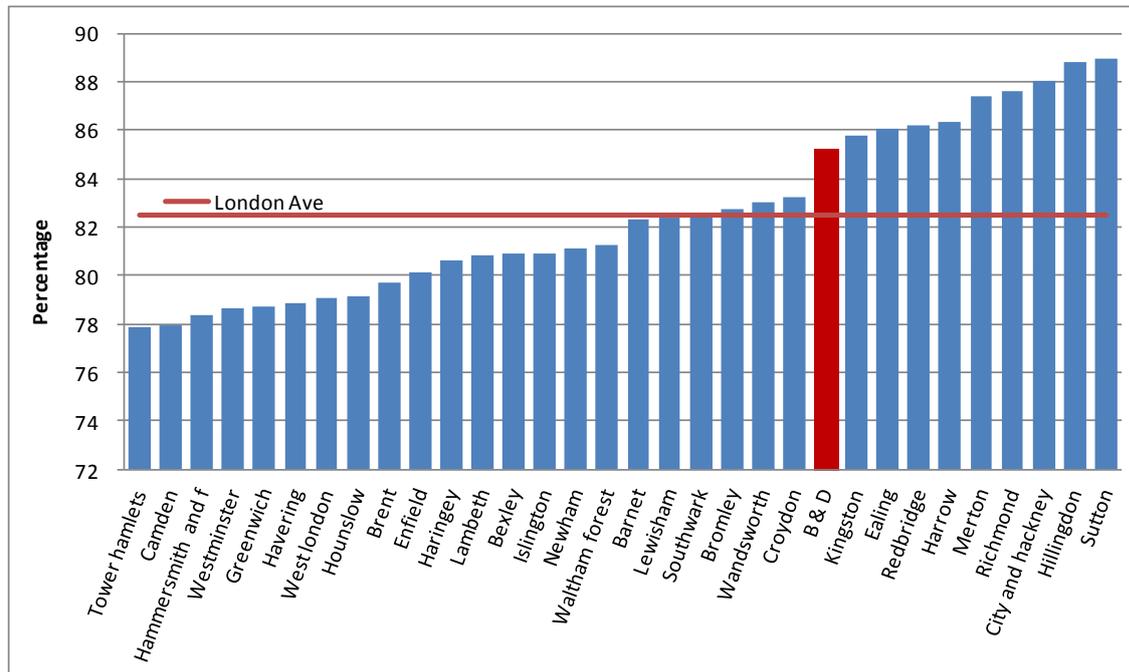
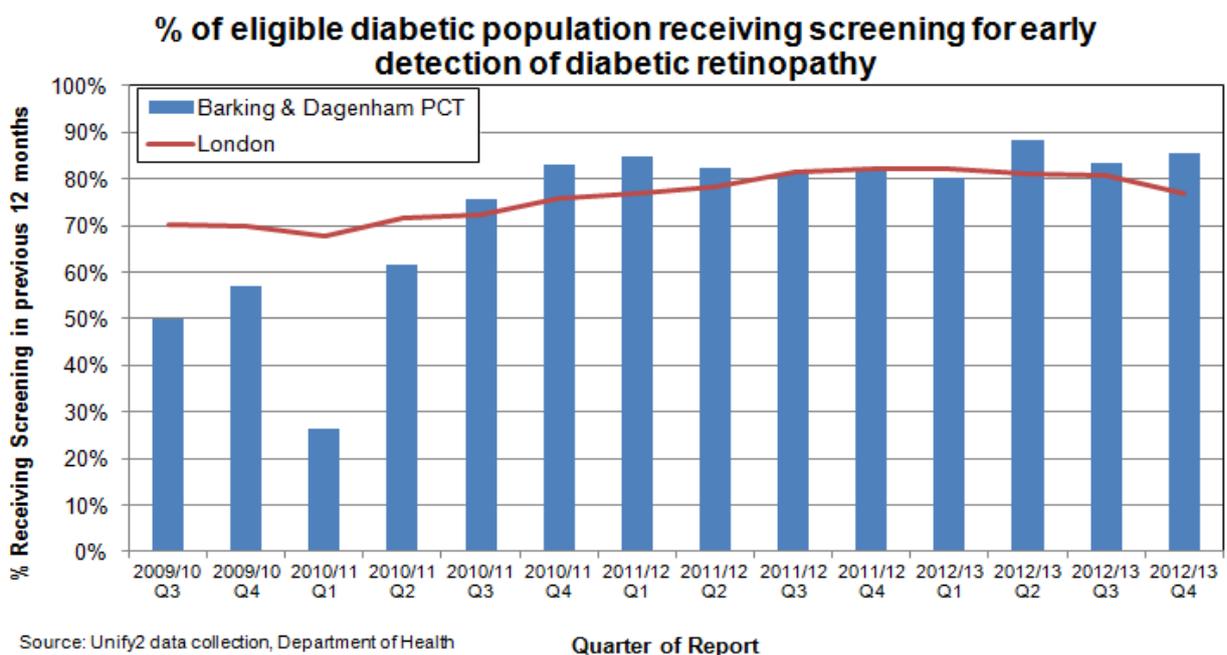


Figure 7.21.2 shows the percentage of eligible diabetic population receiving screening for early detection of diabetic retinopathy. It displays that the uptake rate for LBBDD is similar to those seen in London as a whole, with 85.6% of those eligible being screened in the most recent quarter, compared to 77.0% in London.

Figure 7.21.2 Percentage of eligible diabetic population receiving screening for early detection of diabetic retinopathy.



Invitations for screening are issued annually. In the same time period 78.8% of those offered diabetic eye screening attended a digital screening event. Digital surveillance clinics allow more frequent supervision of some patients who the Clinical Lead considers have images that are not high enough risk to be supervised in HES but are at higher risk than the general screening population and in need of more frequent than annual imaging⁴.

The preventable sight loss rate per 100,000 of LBBB population due to diabetes in 2012/13 was 3.3 increased to 7.2 in 2013/14, compared to 4.2 for London and 3.4 for England⁵.

⁴ NHS, 2012. 'Diabetic Eye Screening Surveillance Pathways' [online] available from: http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CCgQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fdiabeticeye.screening.nhs.uk%2Fgetdata.php%3Fid%3D11655&ei=xQWVVdfJBcve7Aa5j7_gAw&usq=AFQjCNE0vu0tjxBV-9UAAzd9F5R1MVbySA&sig2=d3YEHM9jnNCSM3Vcpq8wHw [accessed 2 July 2015]

⁵ PHE-OF, 2015. 'Preventable sight loss' [online] available from: <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk> [Last accessed 19th May 2016]